

REVISION OF THE AUSTRALIAN ELATERIDAE.

COLEOPTERA.—Part II.

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***Lacon fergusoni*, n. sp.**

Elongate; slightly convex; moderately nitid; brown with reddish or ferruginous patches; antennae, posterior angles of pronotum, gula, parts of episternum, epipleurae and legs ferruginous; not densely clothed with small testaceous squamose hairs, more densely arranged on abdomen than elsewhere. Under surface of a more uniform brown, except parts mentioned above, and not having the mottled appearance of the upper surface. Head almost circular with the base more or less straight, with two median foveae, one interocular and the other just above the insertion of the antennae; with dense, round, somewhat deep punctures, which are more or less concealed by the clothing. Pronotum slightly wider than long, base triemarginate, sides from near base to the anterior fourth almost straight and parallel and then abruptly, roundly contracted to the anterior margin, barely perceptibly sinuate in front of the posterior angles, which are almost rectangular with the apices slightly obliquely truncated, and with a small protuberance inside each angle, anterior angles acute with a feeble longitudinal depression inside of each near the apex, the longitudinal furrow only just discernible on the basal half; with dense, round, moderately deep punctures, in parts concealed by the clothing. Scutellum pentangular, the basal angle obtuse. Elytra as wide as pronotum at the base and about twice as long, sides almost straight and parallel from the base to near the middle then gradually roundly contracted to apex; punctate-striate, the punctures in striae moderately large, deep and almost rectangular, the interstices flat and with dense punctures only slightly smaller than those in striae. Prosternum with moderately-deep, well-defined, metasternum with shallow tarsal depressions. Length, 8-10 mm.; width, 3-4 mm.

Queensland: Bowen (A. Simson); Townsville (E. W. Ferguson). Type, in author's collection.

At first glance somewhat resembling *L. marmoratus*, Cand., but is less convex, the punctures of pronotum smaller and more crowded, the striae on the elytra less distinct and the punctures of the interstices larger; it differs from *L. variegatus*, Schwarz, by having the posterior angles of the pronotum more rectangular and the punctures on the elytral striae larger; and from *L. plagiatus*, Cand., by being proportionately broader and flatter and with the punctures of the elytral interstices larger.

***Lacon badius*, n. sp.**

Moderately thick; convex; subnitid; pale to dark castaneous, the head, anterior and posterior margins of pronotum and sides of scutellum dark brown; moderately densely clothed with short, depressed, golden hairs. Under surface same colour as upper and clothed similarly. Head with the surface almost flat except for a barely visible depression near the top, rather densely covered with moderately large deep punctures. Pronotum about as long as wide, moderately strongly convex, with a shallow, median, longitudinal furrow extending upwards from the base to quite two-thirds of the

length of pronotum; sides crenulate, roundly contracted on the anterior third and then almost straight to near base, which is only very slightly sinuate, posterior angles strong and somewhat divergent, apex rounded, with a small tubercle in the middle which gives the angles a pointed appearance, inside of the apex of each is a small elongate protuberance which makes the angles look as if they are bluntly carinate; closely covered with rather large, deep, round punctures. Scutellum vaguely pentagonal, the base being almost round rather than obtusely angled. Elytra as wide as pronotum and about twice as long, sides almost straight and parallel to just beyond the middle then gradually roundly contracted to apex, narrowly flattened on basal half near the suture; punctate-striate, the punctures in striae moderately large and deep, not crowded, the interstices flat and minutely punctured. Prosternum with deep, sharply-defined tarsal depressions, metasternum very vaguely impressed. Length, 8.5-10.5 mm.; width, 3-4 mm.

South Australia: Ooldea, Tarcoola (A. M. Lea). Type, in South Australian Museum.

A rather distinct species and readily distinguished by its colour and peculiarly constructed posterior angles of pronotum. At first glance it somewhat resembles *L. arbitrarius*, Elston, from which it can be easily separated by the shape of the posterior angles of pronotum; in the present species they are rounded at the apex, whilst in *arbitrarius* they are distinctly elongated and acutely pointed; also, in the latter species, the tarsal furrows on the prosternum are very shallow, not sharply defined.

Lacon cruentatus, n. sp.

Not thick; almost flat; nitid; black, with scattered small red blotches, antennae, mouth parts and legs testaceous; moderately densely clothed with short, depressed, griseous-yellow, squamose hairs. Under surface brown, more densely clothed than the upper, and with similar clothing. Head with surface even except for a very shallow depression midway between the insertion of antennae, densely covered with small punctures which are concealed by the clothing. Pronotum slightly longer than wide, lightly convex, without longitudinal median furrow, sides roundly contracted on the anterior third and then straight and parallel to near posterior angles, which are almost right angular and with a small shining tubercle on the inside of each angle, sides in front of the posterior angles very lightly sinuate, basal margin very nearly straight, only almost imperceptibly emarginate; densely punctured, the punctures moderately small and rather deep. Scutellum pentagonal, basal angle obtuse. Elytra as wide as prothorax and about twice its length, sides nearly straight and parallel to just beyond the middle and then roundly contracted to apex, lightly convex and slightly flattened in middle near suture; punctate-striate, the punctures in striae large, round and deep, interstices flat and with dense punctures only slightly smaller than those in striae. Prosternum with well-defined tarsal impressions, those on the metasternum almost obsolete. Length, 5-6.5 mm.; width, 2-2.5 mm.

South Australia: Lake Callabonna (A. Zietz), Oodnadatta. Type, in South Australian Museum.

A distinct species owing to the dark body with pale legs, the scattered blood-red blotches are mostly confined to the elytra. Its nearest ally is *L. pictipennis*, Cand., from which it can be distinguished by its darker ground colour, more nitid, the individual squamose hairs much finer, without a longitudinal median furrow on the prothorax, and head without interocular depressions. A more nitid species than *L. guttatus*, Cand., with a darker ground colour and punctures of elytral interstices larger.

***Lacon stigmus*, n. sp.**

Moderately thick; opaque; dark brown, antennae (except basal joint which is more or less reddish) and palpi testaceous, legs and gula reddish; rather densely clothed with brown and griseous squamose hairs, the latter appearing in patches and giving the upper surface a mottled appearance. Under surface dark brown in parts diluted with red; densely (on the abdomen more densely) and uniformly clothed with griseous squamose hairs. Head with triangular impression in the middle, base of which lies between the insertion of antennae, also a faint longitudinal one extending from the apex of the latter to the vertex of head; with dense, rather deep punctures which are more or less concealed by the clothing. Pronotum about as wide as long, moderately and evenly convex, with a short, barely visible, longitudinal furrow in the middle, sides roundly contracted on the anterior third and then almost straight and parallel to the base, lateral margins almost imperceptibly sinuate in front of the posterior angles which are almost rectangular and not truncated at apex, with two large, round, somewhat shallow foveae at the base, situated one on each side of the longitudinal furrow; with dense, moderately large, round, deep punctures which are in parts concealed by the clothing. Scutellum pentagonal, slightly concave and acuminate behind. Elytra as wide as prothorax and about twice its length, except for a very slight dilation in front of the middle, the sides are almost straight and parallel to beyond the middle then roundly and evenly contracted to apex, lightly and evenly convex, at base abruptly and obliquely sloping; punctate-striate, the punctures in striae moderately large, round and deep, the interstices flat with much smaller punctures. Prosternum with curved, deep, sharply defined tarsal furrows, those on metasternum very shallow and barely visible. Length, 10-11.5 mm.; width, 3.5-4.25 mm.

North-west Australia: Derby. North Queensland: Normanton (R. Kemp). Type, in South Australian Museum.

This is one of the mottled species, on some of the specimens the posterior angles of the prothorax are diluted with red and the parts of the elytra covered with the pale hairs are in some cases more or less reddish; the colour of the under surface varies, on some examples the dark brown colour predominates here and there diluted with red, whereas on others the whole of the under surface is a reddish-brown. This species comes nearest to *L. plagiat*us, Cand., from which it is easily distinguished by its denser clothing, more robust form, pronotum more evenly arched and not transversely ridged posteriorly and punctures in the striae of elytra much larger in proportion to those on the interstices.

***Lacon LATERALIS*, Schwarz.**

The author in his description of this species gave the habitat as Australia; I have before me four examples from North Queensland which may be regarded as the above species. The male is much smaller than the female; with the antennae reaching to the base of the prothorax, the latter appears to be more elongate and it also has the situation in front of its posterior angles more pronounced than that of the female.

***Lacon semivestitus*, n. sp.**

Elongate; not thick; subopaque; dark brown with antennae, mouth parts and legs more or less ferruginous; upper surface not densely clothed, with minute tawny, squamose hairs. Under surface a reddish-brown and clothed similarly to the upper surface. Head with the surface widely depressed, the lateral margins appearing to be bent upwards; closely, deeply and somewhat

rugosely punctured. Pronotum slightly longer than wide, lightly convex, the longitudinal median furrow extending from near the base to the apex, along the lateral margins rather widely flattened, from just in front of the posterior angles the sides gradually curve outwards to the anterior third and then rather abruptly contracted to the apex of anterior angles which are subacute and rounded at apex, the posterior angles are slightly divergent and produced backwards with their apices minutely obliquely truncated, and with a more or less distinct lateral carina extending a short distance upwards; with large, moderately deep, closely placed, subreticulate punctures. Scutellum pentagonal, almost flat, dilated posteriorly and obtusely angled. Elytra slightly wider than across posterior angles of pronotum and a little more than twice its length, widely flattened on top, sides from base gradually, almost imperceptibly, dilated to beyond the middle and then gradually, evenly and roundly contracted to apex; punctate-striate, the punctures in striae large and deep, the interstices narrow and minutely punctured, the alternate ones distinctly elevated. Pro- and metasternum without tarsal furrows. Length, 12.5-15.5 mm.; width, 3.5-4.5 mm.

North-west Australia: Wyndham (W. Crawshaw). North Queensland: Townsville (G. F. Hill). Groote Eylandt (N. Tindale). Type, in author's collection.

A rather distinct species, the narrowest part of the pronotum is just in front of its posterior angles; the bottoms of the elytral punctures when viewed in a bright light are a vivid red; the prosternum on some specimens is very widely and very faintly impressed, but these barely visible impressions could not be regarded as tarsal furrows. This species cannot be easily associated with any other member of its group.

Lacon conspiciendus, n. sp.

Moderately thick; subopaque; dark brown with here and there reddish patches, antennae (except basal joint which is infuscated) and legs reddish; rather densely clothed with short, dark and pale squamose hairs, the latter mostly confined to the reddish patches which gives the insect a mottled appearance. Under surface brown with the gula and epipleurae more or less reddish; moderately densely clothed with small, depressed, golden squamose hairs. Head lightly impressed and densely covered with moderately large, deep, rugose punctures. Pronotum wider than long, transversely gibbose behind the middle, with a short longitudinal furrow more or less distinctly dividing the gibbosity, sides from in front of the posterior angles almost straight and parallel to the anterior third and then abruptly, very nearly rectilinearly, contracted to apices of anterior angles which are acute and faintly impressed on the inside, lateral margins crenate and when viewed from the side with a feeble carina extending almost the whole length, lightly sinuate in front of the posterior angles which are very slightly divergent and very widely and obliquely truncated; with dense, round, rather deep punctures more or less concealed by the clothing. Scutellum pentagonal, slightly concave; with shallow, rugose punctures. Elytra a very little wider than base of prothorax and only slightly more than twice the length of the latter, evenly convex and sloping obliquely at the base, sides feebly dilated near the middle and on the posterior third gradually and evenly contracted to apex; punctate-striate, the punctures in striae moderately large and deep and closely placed, the interstices flat, closely and minutely punctured. Prosternum and metasternum with shallow tarsal depressions, those on the former more distinct than those on the latter. Length, 7-8.5 mm.; width, 2.5-3 mm.

Queensland: Brisbane. North-west Australia: Kimberley district (Dr. E. Mjöberg). Type, in South Australian Museum.

This insect is chiefly conspicuous by the wide and oblique truncation of the posterior angles of the prothorax, which at first glance seem to be rectangular, this truncation makes them appear biangular, the top angle being obtuse and the bottom one acute, and on some specimens can be seen more distinctly than on others a faint lateral carina. The reddish patches are mostly confined to the elytra and the posterior angles of the prothorax are consistently of this colour; these reddish patches are much more conspicuous when the insect is abraded; the clothing on the basal fourth of the elytra has a granulated appearance. At first glance this species might be confused with *L. marmoratus*, Cand., but can be easily distinguished, *inter alia*, by its much shorter clothing, comparatively narrower form, punctures in striae less conspicuous under the clothing, sides of pronotum more distinctly flattened and the scutellum more elongate.

***Lacon bellator*, n. sp.**

Elongate; moderately thick; subopaque; dark reddish-brown with the antennae and legs ferruginous; not densely clothed with short, depressed, testaceous, squamose hairs. Under surface a little more diluted with red and with clothing similar to the upper surface but slightly denser. Head with very prominent mandibles, widely impressed and with large, deep, reticulate punctures. Pronotum longer than wide, moderately and evenly convex with a faintly impressed longitudinal median furrow, inside the lateral margins narrowly flattened, sides from in front of the posterior angles gradually dilated to in front of the middle and then roundly contracted to apices of anterior angles which are widely and rather deeply impressed on the inside. posterior angles small, very slightly divergent and produced backwards, acute and with a faint lateral carina extending upwards for a short distance along the sides of pronotum; with large, deep, not closely placed punctures. Scutellum pentagonal, slightly concave, posterior angle obtuse and rounded; with a few scattered, deep punctures. Elytra narrower than pronotum between apices of posterior angles and about twice the length of the latter, lightly convex, a narrow margin on either side of suture depressed, sides almost straight and parallel to beyond the middle and then gradually and evenly contracted to apex; punctate-striate, the punctures in striae large, deep and rectangularly elongate, interstices flat and minutely punctured. Prosternum without tarsal furrows. Length, 12.5-13 mm.; width, 4.4-25 mm.

Northern Territory (collection South Australian Museum). Type, in South Australian Museum.

A distinct species; the pronotum has a very characteristic shape, its width between the apices of the posterior angles is about the same as that between the apices of its anterior angles, the clothing on the interstices of the elytra is arranged in two more or less distinct longitudinal rows. There are very faint depressions on the prosternum which are really rudimentary forms of tarsal furrows, these, however, I am not regarding as such, for this form undoubtedly belongs to, or at least is so closely associated with the group that has no tarsal furrows that, for the purpose of tabulation, I think it desirable to group them altogether. In general appearance the present species somewhat resembles *L. palpalis*, Cand., but can be easily distinguished by its scantier clothing, sides of pronotum not so widely depressed and its punctures smaller and not so closely placed, the posterior angles of pronotum smaller and not so divergent and the punctures on the interstices of the elytra much smaller.

***Lacon praelongus*, n. sp.**

Elongate; not thick; subopaque; brown with the antennae, posterior angles of pronotum and legs ferruginous; moderately densely clothed with very short, griseous-yellow squamose hairs which are arranged in double rows on the elytra. Under surface of a more reddish brown than upper surface and similarly clothed. Head with a very large, not deep, triangular depression and densely covered with small, almost reticulate, punctures. Pronotum as wide as long, very lightly convex; the shallow, longitudinal median furrow only distinct behind the middle, the lateral margins slightly crenulate and straight and parallel from near the base to the anterior fourth and then abruptly, almost rectilinearly contracted to apices of anterior angles which are acute and strongly depressed on the inside, the sides are barely sinuate in front of the posterior angles which are small, very slightly produced backwards, acute and lightly depressed on the inside; with dense, reticulate punctures, larger than those on the head. Scutellum elongate, pentagonal, truncate in front and obtusely angled behind, with moderately dense, rugose punctures. Elytra very slightly wider than across posterior angles of pronotum and nearly thrice the length of the latter, flattened in the middle, sides almost straight and parallel from near the base to the posterior third and then gradually roundly contracted to apex; punctate-striate, the punctures in striae rather deep and larger than those on pronotum, the interstices narrow, densely and minutely punctured, the alternate ones not at all elevated. Prosternum and metasternum without tarsal furrows. Length, 10.5-11.5 mm.; width, 3.3-5 mm.

Queensland: Cunnamulla (H. Hardecastle). Type, in South Australian Museum.

A very elongate and distinct species; owing to the large depression the head appears concave; the pronotum seems to be longer than wide, although by measurement it is only as long as wide, on one specimen, presumably a female, the pronotum is slightly more convex which gives it a more quadratic appearance.

This species comes nearest to *L. variabilis*, Cand., from which it is distinguished by being much more elongate and narrower in proportion, sides of pronotum not so widely depressed and only barely perceptibly sinuate in front of the posterior angles which are much smaller, slightly produced backwards and acute; the punctures on the elytra are smaller, the interstices flat and the alternate ones not at all elevated. It differs from the description of *L. monachus*, Cand., by being more elongate, more or less depressed, the pronotum not wider than long and not tri-impressed and the alternate elytral interstices not elevated. It is distinguished from *L. parallelus*, Cand., with which it might be confused owing to the similar elongate appearance, chiefly by the shape of the pronotum and the sides of the prosternum not at all impressed for tarsal furrows, less convex and the punctures in the elytral striae much larger.

***Lacon farinosus*, n. sp.**

Moderately convex; slightly nitid; dark brown, in parts diluted with red, antennae testaceous, posterior angles of pronotum, base of elytra, scutellum and legs more or less reddish; not densely clothed with small, depressed, cineraceous, squamose hairs. Under surface same colour as upper, except epipleurae of elytra which are reddish, and similarly clothed. Head with a rather large, triangular, shallow depression near the middle; with densely arranged, deep, almost reticulate punctures. Pronotum barely longer than wide, evenly and lightly convex, abruptly sloping backwards on the posterior fourth; with a shallow, median, longitudinal furrow extending nearly the

whole length, more distinct posteriorly; lateral margins from in front of the posterior angles almost imperceptibly rounded to the anterior third, then curvilinearly contracted (not strongly) to the apices of anterior angles which are acute and rounded; posterior angles acute, very slightly divergent and produced backwards beyond the humeral angles of elytra, depressed on the inside, with a strong carina inside the lateral margins and extending upwards nearly to the middle of the pronotum; with densely arranged, large, deep, reticulate punctures. Scutellum pentagonal, lateral margins lightly constricted near the middle, posterior angles very obtusely pointed, almost rounded, with a few large, round punctures. Elytra at base narrower than across posterior angles of pronotum and about twice the length of the latter, lightly convex and slightly flattened near the suture, sides barely perceptibly dilated near the middle then roundly contracted to apex; punctate-striate, the punctures in striae moderately large and deep, interstices flat with inconspicuous, minute, shallow punctures except on the basal third where they are larger and deeper and give this part of the elytra a granulated appearance. Prosternum and metasternum without tarsal furrows. Length, 10-11 mm.; width, 3.5-4 mm.

Northern Territory: Port Darwin (W. K. Hunt). Type, in South Australian Museum.

This species should be easily distinguished by the shape of the pronotum, the posterior angles of which extend backwards beyond the humeral angles of the elytra; near the suture and base of elytra the dark brown ground colour is strongly diluted with red and the posterior angles of pronotum and scutellum are a more or less bright red with the margins of each infuscated. One specimen is a much lighter brown than the type but this may be due to immaturity. The present species comes nearest to *L. gibbosus*, Schwarz, but can be readily distinguished by its more elongate form, considerably thinner, not so convex and the posterior angles of pronotum more elongated.

***Lacon subcompactus*, n. sp.**

Short; moderately thick; convex; dark brown in parts more or less strongly diluted with red, antennae, lateral margins of pronotum and of elytra, the posterior angles of the former and legs ferruginous; moderately densely clothed with extremely small, golden, squamose hairs. Under surface same colour as upper and similarly clothed. Head with two oblique depressions and a basal one; with rather dense, round and deep punctures. Pronotum distinctly wider than long, strongly convex but not transversely gibbose behind the middle, with an indistinct longitudinal furrow only visible on the posterior half, sides almost straight and parallel from the base to near the middle then gradually, feebly, roundly contracted to apices of anterior angles which are rounded at their extremities, sides not sinuate in front of the posterior angles, the latter almost rectangular, rather strongly depressed on the inside and with a more or less distinct lateral carina only extending a short way upwards beyond the angles; closely covered with moderately large, round, deep almost reticulate punctures. Scutellum vaguely pentagonal and almost rounded posteriorly; with small, scattered punctures. Elytra as wide as pronotum and less than twice the length of the latter, the top near the suture and a narrow margin at the sides flattened, sides almost straight and parallel from the base to beyond the middle then abruptly, roundly contracted to apex; punctate-striate, the punctures in striae not larger than those on prothorax, the interstices flat, the alternate ones elevated and with small, closely placed punctures having a granular appearance, particularly on the

basal half. Prosternum only with shallow tarsal furrows extending to the sides. Length, 9.5 mm.; width, 3.75 mm.

New South Wales: Glen Innes (C. Deane). Type, in author's collection.

A relatively wide species and conspicuous by the almost quadratic shape of its pronotum; the two oblique and the basal depressions on the head form a more or less distinct triangle, the apex of which does not quite reach the vertex of the head, and giving the appearance of having an almost round protuberance near the middle of the head. This species closely resembles the brief description given of *L. compactus*, Cand., but can be distinguished from that species by having the sides of the pronotum carinate and not at all crenulate. Up to the present I have not seen a specimen of the above species named by Candeze who, in his description wrote (referring to the pronotum) "lateribus crenulato" and again emphasizing this characteristic by writing in his comparative notes, "son prothorax fortement crénelé."

***Lacon hackeri*, n. sp.**

Elongate; moderately thick; subopaque; dark brown diluted with red. antennae and legs a reddish-brown; rather densely clothed with short, griseous-yellow, squamose hairs. Under surface same colour as upper (except epipleurae of elytra which are reddish) and similarly clothed. Head with a large, shallow, triangular depression in the middle and two smaller ones near the top; densely covered with round, deep punctures. Pronotum about as long as wide, moderately strongly convex, posterior third gently sloping backwards, with a shallow, longitudinal, median furrow and two small round depressions on the posterior fourth, situated one on each side of the median line and midway between the latter and the lateral margin, sides rounded near the middle and on the anterior third roundly contracted to the apices of anterior angles (which are rounded at their extremities) and rather strongly sinuate in front of the posterior angles, the latter are lightly divergent, very widely and obliquely truncated and with a faintly marked carina inside the lateral margin; densely covered with rather large, round, deep punctures. Scutellum pentagonal, the posterior half much wider than the anterior, the posterior angle very obtuse and almost rounded; densely covered with moderately large, deep, subrugose punctures. Elytra at base as wide as pronotum across posterior angles and fully twice the length of the latter, sides almost straight and parallel to beyond the middle then rather abruptly, roundly contracted to apex, narrowly depressed in the middle near the suture: punctate-striate, the punctures in striae moderately large, deep and almost longitudinally rectangular, the interstices flat, densely and minutely punctured. Prosternum only with shallow, but nevertheless distinct, tarsal furrows. Length, 14.5-18.5 mm.; width, 4.5-6 mm.

Queensland: Stradbroke Island (H. Hacker). New South Wales: Sydney (A. M. Lea). Type, in Queensland Museum.

The surface of the head is very uneven, due to the large triangular depression and the two smaller ones, which are situated one on each side of the apex of the former; the pronotum appears to be longer than wide, but by measurement the width is equal to the length, the former having its widest part near the middle; the clothing on the elytra is conspicuous by being more densely arranged on each alternate interstice of the striae. A more elongate species than *L. pleureticus*, Cand., and of a duller brown, it also differs from the latter by having the posterior angles of pronotum more divergent and more widely, obliquely truncated, the surface of the pronotum evenly convex and not at all gibbose, the punctures of the latter slightly smaller and denser and the clothing, particularly on the elytra, denser and of a more squamose

appearance. It can be easily distinguished from *L. geminatus*, Cand., *inter alia*, by being more elongate, a duller brown, less nitid, the posterior angles of pronotum larger and more divergent, the pronotum more densely punctured, the interstices of the elytral striae wider and not convex, the prosternum with tarsal furrows.

***Lacon castaneus*, n. sp.**

Elongate; convex; moderately thick; subnitid; dark castaneous with a narrow margin at the base of elytra bright red and the margins of scutellum infuscated; moderately densely clothed with very short, cineraceous, squamose hairs. Under surface same colour as upper except epipleurae of elytra which are a brighter red and moderately densely clothed with very fine and short, cineraceous, squamose hairs. Head with a large triangular depression and with densely arranged, deep, round punctures. Pronotum slightly longer than wide, evenly convex, narrowly flattened at the lateral margins, with a short, well-defined, longitudinal median furrow, sides sinuate in front of the posterior angles and then almost straight and parallel to the anterior third thence gradually, roundly contracted to apices of anterior angles which are acute and rather deeply impressed on their inside; posterior angles divergent and slightly produced backwards, acute, briefly truncated at the extremities and depressed on the inside; with moderately deep, round, not closely placed punctures. Scutellum elongate, pentagonal, concave, posterior angle obtuse, almost rounded; with a few vague punctures. Elytra as wide as pronotum across the posterior angles and slightly more than twice the length of the latter, evenly convex and very slightly flattened in the middle, sides almost straight and parallel to beyond the middle and then gradually, roundly, contracted to apex; punctate-striate, the punctures in striae much crowded, moderately large, deep and almost quadratic in shape, the interstices slightly and uniformly convex, with dense, minute punctures. Prosternum only with very shallow, almost obsolete, tarsal depressions. Length, 13.5-14 mm.; width, 4.5 mm.

North-west Australia: Roebuck Bay. Type, in South Australian Museum.

This species can be easily distinguished by its colour; its nearest congener is *L. rubiginosus*, Cand., from which it differs in being more elongate; the pronotum less convex, more deeply punctured and its lateral margins straighter; the punctures in the elytral striae are more closely placed, the interstices of same convex and more densely and deeply punctured.

***Lacon multipunctatus*, n. sp.**

Not thick; very lightly convex, subopaque; dark brown in parts slightly diluted with red, antennae (in parts infuscated), mouth parts and legs testaceous, posterior angles of pronotum more or less reddish; moderately densely clothed with extremely short, yellowish, squamose hairs. Under surface same colour as upper, except epipleurae of elytra which are reddish, and similarly clothed. Head almost flat with a large, shallow depression in the middle and with densely arranged, very small, subrugose punctures. Pronotum barely longer than wide, very lightly convex, with an almost obsolete, median, longitudinal furrow extending the whole length, sides finely crenulate and from in front of the posterior angles almost imperceptibly curvilinearly dilated up to the anterior third and then roundly contracted to apices of anterior angles, which are acute and scarcely visibly depressed on their insides, widely and shallowly sinuate in front of the posterior angles which are slightly produced backwards, acute, very briefly obliquely truncated at apices and lightly depressed on their insides; with densely placed, small, round and deep punctures. Scutellum small, quadrangular, its lateral margins concave and

the basal one convex; closely and rugosely punctured. Elytra at base as wide as pronotum across its posterior angles and twice its length, widely flattened on top, sides almost straight and parallel to beyond the middle and then roundly contracted to apex; indistinctly punctate-striate, the punctures in striae small, round, deep and densely placed, the interstices flat and densely punctured. Prosternum only with shallow, indistinct tarsal depressions. Length, 5.5-6 mm.; width, barely 2 mm.

Northern Territory: Port Darwin (W. K. Hunt). Type, in South Australian Museum.

This species can be at once distinguished by its densely punctured upper surface, particularly on the elytra, the striae of the latter are very indistinct owing to the interstices having punctures quite as large and dense as those in the former. The shape of the scutellum also makes this species conspicuous. instead of being pentagonal, as is usual with members of this genus, it is quadrangular.

Lacon cineraceus, n. sp.

Moderately thick; convex; opaque; dull black or dark brown with parts of elytra slightly diluted with red, antennae and mouth parts testaceous, legs ferruginous; moderately densely clothed with short, griseous, squamose hairs, more densely arranged in parts and forming patches. Under surface a dark brown but slightly more diluted with red than the upper surface, uniformly densely clothed with short, griseous, squamose hairs. Head almost flat with a large, shallow, triangular depression in the middle; with densely arranged, rather deep, subrugose punctures. Pronotum barely wider than long, lightly convex, on the posterior third gently sloping towards base but not gibbose, the longitudinal median furrow only just visible on the posterior half, sides not at all sinuate in front of the posterior angles and from the latter to the anterior third straight and parallel and then abruptly, almost rectilinearly, contracted to apices of anterior angles which are acute and slightly rounded at their extremities, somewhat widely and flatly depressed inside the lateral margins, the base very lightly sinuate, the posterior angles barely perceptibly directed backwards, widely and obliquely truncated; with moderately large, rather deep, densely arranged, almost reticulate punctures. Scutellum moderately large, pentagonal, concave, obtusely angled posteriorly; the punctures more or less concealed by the clothing. Elytra as wide as the pronotum across posterior angles and about twice its length, lightly and evenly convex, sides almost straight and parallel from the base to beyond the middle and then gradually, roundly contracted to apex; punctate-striate, the punctures in striae a little larger than those on pronotum, round and deep, the interstices wide and flat with densely arranged punctures, smaller than those in the striae and more or less concealed by the clothing. Prosternum only with deep, well defined tarsal furrows. Length, 8.5-10 mm.; width, 3-4 mm.

Queensland: Bowen (A. Simson); Normanton (R. Kemp). Type, in South Australian Museum.

Very close to *L. marmoratus*, Cand., from which it can be distinguished by its darker ground colour, the prothorax less convex and not at all gibbose on the posterior half, the sides of same not crenulate and the punctures slightly larger and more densely arranged; the clothing is also different, on the present species it is much shorter and of a more squamose appearance. It differs from *L. stigmosus*, Elston, chiefly by its much finer and denser punctuation and its posterior angles of pronotum being very widely and obliquely truncated.

***Lacon aquilus*, n. sp.**

Moderately thick; convex; subopaque, dark brown with the posterior angles of pronotum and margins of elytra diluted with red, antennae and legs reddish; moderately densely clothed with short, griseous, squamose hairs, those on the pronotum shorter than on the elytra. Under surface dark brown, in parts diluted with red and clothed with very short, griseous, squamose hairs. Head almost flat with a shallow depression in the middle; densely covered with small and deep punctures more or less concealed by the clothing. Pronotum about as wide as long, convex and slightly gibbous on the posterior half, the longitudinal median furrow barely discernible, lateral margins crenulate and from the base to the anterior third almost straight and parallel and then gradually, roundly contracted to apices of anterior angles which are acute and very slightly depressed on the inside, posterior angles rectangular, with a distinct lateral carina, the basal margin almost straight; with densely arranged, moderately large, round, deep punctures. Scutellum pentagonal, lateral margins concave, posterior angle obtuse; closely, almost rugosely, punctured. Elytra at base as wide as pronotum across posterior angles and about twice its length, convex, sides from the base gradually, almost imperceptibly, roundly dilated to beyond the middle and then roundly contracted to apex; punctate-striate, the punctures in striae moderately large, deep and elongate, the interstices flat and with closely placed punctures which are much smaller than those in the striae. Prosternum with long, deep, sharply defined tarsal furrows, metasternum with barely discernible tarsal depressions. Length, 8 mm.; width, 2.75 mm.

Northern Territory: Groote Eylandt (N. B. Tindale). Type, in South Australian Museum.

Very close to *L. ferruginous*, Cand., from which it can be distinguished by its darker colour, the punctures on pronotum not quite so crowded, the posterior angles of pronotum distinctly carinate and the punctures in the elytral striae larger. Easily distinguished from *L. labiosus*, Cand., by its larger size, the punctures in the elytral striae being proportionately much larger than those on the interstices, and the absence of tarsal furrows on the metasternum.

***Lacon brevipennis*, n. sp.**

Subovate; not thick; subdepressed; subopaque; black with the scutellum and parts of elytra reddish, antennae and legs ferruginous; moderately densely clothed with very short, yellowish, squamose hairs. Under surface of a uniform dark brown (except epipleurae of elytra which are reddish) and clothed similarly to the upper surface. Head almost flat with the anterior margin almost straight and lightly emarginate in the middle, the mandibles are prominent and bifid at the apex; with densely arranged, rather deep, reticulate punctures. Pronotum slightly longer than wide, lightly and evenly convex, the longitudinal median furrow distinctly visible along the entire length, with two round impressions on the posterior fourth situated one on each side of the median furrow and about midway between the latter and the lateral margins, the base only lightly bisinuate, the sides from in front of the posterior angles almost imperceptibly convex up to the anterior fourth then roundly contracted to apices of anterior angles which are acute and only a little depressed on the inside, the posterior angles are almost rectangular with a well defined lateral carina, the lateral margins widely and shallowly sinuate in front of the posterior angles; with densely arranged, moderately deep, reticulate punctures. Scutellum small, almost round, convex; closely and somewhat deeply punctured. Elytra fully as wide as the pronotum across posterior angles and about one and a half times its length, lightly convex and

depressed on either side of the suture, sides almost straight and parallel to beyond the middle then gradually, roundly contracted to apex; punctate-striate, the punctures in striae closely placed, moderately large, round and deep, the interstices narrow, the alternate ones slightly elevated, the punctures closely arranged and about half the size of those in the striae. Prosternum and metasternum without tarsal furrows. Length, 8 mm.; width, 3 mm.

South Australia: Leigh's Creek (A. H. Elston). Type, in author's collection.

A very distinct insect and unlike any previously described species known to me. The red markings on the elytra are mostly in the sutural region with a few blotches near the lateral margins; the head is only very lightly impressed, the anterior and posterior angles of the pronotum are entire and not at all rounded or truncated at their apices.

***Lacon rufulus*, n. sp.**

Moderately thick; convex; subnitid, reddish-castaneous with a narrow band at the base of elytra and a round spot on the scutellum a lighter red, antennae more or less testaceous, legs of the same colour as body; lightly clothed with short, testaceous, squamose hairs. Under surface a little darker in colour than the upper surface with the epipleurae of elytra paler; rather densely covered with very short, testaceous, squamose hairs. Head almost flat with a shallow depression in the middle; with densely arranged, deep, round punctures which are more or less concealed by the clothing. Pronotum about as long as wide, rather strongly convex and gibbose behind the middle, the longitudinal median furrow only faintly defined, the lateral margins from the base up to the anterior third almost straight and parallel (not or only barely visibly sinuate in front of the posterior angles) and then curvilinearly contracted to apices of anterior angles which are acute, rounded at their extremities and slightly impressed on the inside, posterior angles almost rectangular and slightly produced backwards, not truncated and with a barely visible prominence on the inside, the basal margin very lightly sinuate; densely covered with moderately large, deep, almost reticulate punctures. Scutellum vaguely pentagonal, narrowly depressed behind, the posterior angle obtuse and the basal margins almost rounded; with a few small punctures. Elytra as wide as pronotum across its posterior angles and less than twice the length of the former, rather widely depressed along the sutural region, the lateral margins from the base to beyond the middle almost straight and parallel and then gradually, roundly contracted to apex; punctate-striate, the punctures in striae moderately large, deep and elongately rectangular, the interstices wide and flat, with closely arranged punctures which are much smaller than those in striae. Prosternum with deep, sharply defined, curved tarsal furrows, metasternum without any tarsal impressions. Length, 11 mm.; width, 4 mm.

North-west Australia: Fortescue River, Hammersley Range (W. D. Dodd). Type, in South Australian Museum.

In shape this species somewhat resembles *L. laticollis*, Cand., but at once distinguished by its colour; the mandibles are very prominent, curved and strongly dentate on the apical third; the scutellum is a bright red with the margins somewhat widely infuscated. A much larger species than *L. ferruginous*, Cand., of a brighter colour and with the punctures on the interstices of the elytral striae proportionately smaller. It is easily distinguished from *L. badius*, Elston, by its more nitid appearance and the pronotum of an entirely different shape, on the former species the pronotum is evenly convex

with its posterior angles strongly divergent and widely rounded at their extremities, whereas on the present species the pronotum is abruptly sloping backwards on the posterior fourth and its posterior angles are almost rectangular.

***Lacon punctatissimus*, n. sp.**

Moderately thick; convex; opaque; fuscous with the posterior angles of pronotum and parts of elytra more or less reddish, antennae testaceous, legs ferruginous with parts infuscated; rather densely clothed with short, cineraceous, squamose hairs, on parts of pronotum and elytra more densely arranged and forming patches. Under surface dark brown in parts diluted with red, the epipleurae of elytra are reddish; densely and evenly clothed with extremely short, cineraceous, squamose hairs. Head with a large, triangular, shallow depression in the middle, with densely arranged, moderately large, deep punctures. Pronotum wider than long, rather strongly convex, narrowly depressed along the lateral margins, the longitudinal median furrow almost obsolete, sides almost straight and parallel from near base to the anterior third and then abruptly, almost rectilinearly, contracted to apices of anterior angles which are acute and somewhat deeply impressed on the inside, the lateral margins barely perceptibly sinuate in front of the posterior angles which are slightly produced backwards and very widely and obliquely truncated, with a small protuberance on the inside and a more or less distinct lateral carina; with densely arranged, moderately large, deep, round punctures. Scutellum pentagonal, concave, anterior angles right-angled, the posterior one acute, with a few punctures which are concealed by the clothing. Elytra at base barely wider than across posterior angles of pronotum and a little more than twice the length of the latter, evenly convex, sides slightly dilated near the middle then gradually and roundly contracted to apex; punctate-striate, the punctures in striae large, deep and crowded, the interstices are narrow with densely placed, deep, round punctures, smaller than those in striae. The prosternum has well defined tarsal furrows, those on the metasternum barely discernible. Length, 8-9 mm.; width, 3-3.5 mm.

Northern Territory: Groote Eylandt (N. B. Tindale). Type, in South Australian Museum.

The reddish parts on the elytra form spots, which are more densely covered with the greyish squamose hairs, giving the insect a mottled appearance; the pronotum, although somewhat strongly convex, is not conspicuously gibbose behind the middle and the surface when viewed from the side appears very uneven, this is due to shallow, round depressions near the middle, these, however, are scarcely visible when viewing the insect from above; the basal half of the elytra is more strongly punctured than the posterior half which gives the former a granulated appearance. Near *L. marmoratus*, Cand., but with the pronotum less convex and with the gibbosity behind the middle not so pronounced, the chief distinction is the different sculpture of the elytra, in the present species the punctures in the elytral striae are much larger, the interstices are narrower and with larger punctures, particularly on the basal part which has a strong granulated appearance. It can be easily distinguished from *L. cineraceus*, Elston, by the much stronger punctuation of the elytra and with the interstices of the elytral striae narrower.